

Strand Historic District, Ufford Building
(Ufford Building)
301-309 23rd Street (formerly Tremont Street)
Galveston
Galveston County
Texas

HABS No. TX3296-0

HABS
TEX
84-GALV,
380-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE TEXAS	COUNTY GALVESTON	TOWN OR VICINITY GALVESTON
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) UFFORD BUILDING (original owner)		HABS NO. TX-3296-0
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Strand Historic District, Ufford Building		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 301-309 23rd Street (formerly Tremont Street)		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1860-61 (Galveston Historical Foundation)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) unknown	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) One of the few remaining buildings erected in Galveston before the Civil War, the Ufford Building was built by John Brown for Edmund L. Ufford. The building was started on October 23, 1860 and completed on February 22, 1861 and is characteristic of early commercial structures in Galveston.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick load-bearing walls with an eight-bay cast iron colonnade facing 23rd Street. The building is divided in two by a row of five brick piers running east-west. Heavy timber trusses support the double hip roof.		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) The building is rectangular, approximately 60'(eight bays) by 80'(six bays) and three stories high.		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The eight bay colonnade is divided by cast iron paneled pilasters with Corinthian capitals. The entablature is composed of a simple frieze with a decorative cornice and paired brackets. The windows have simple cast iron sills and lintels. The second and third stories are stuccoed as is the simple brick parapet and cornice.		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) The six-over-six-light double-hung sash windows are surrounded by a heavy, simple molding that runs to the floor; a single recessed wood panel lies below each window. Doors contain single wood panels with one light above, surmounted by a three light transom.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES In the 1940s, the north wall partially collapsed and was rebuilt. Otherwise, the building remains essentially unchanged.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE The building was badly burned in February 1978 and is probably demolished.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE Up until the fire, the building was the subject of litigation in Federal Court. The owner, a nearby bank, planned to demolish the building and a local preservation group filed suit to stop the demolition. The Court ordered the Dept. of the Interior to study the building in August, 1977 (see Field Records and Photos 2-8).		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) "Technical Evaluation of the Ufford Building," John A. Burns, AIA, Historic American Buildings Survey (may be found in the Field Records under Strand Historic District, TX-3296). Strand Historic District (National Register, 1970; National Historic Landmark, 1976).		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Kent R. Newell, Historian, Historic American Buildings Survey		DATE September 25, 1980